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Sri R. S. ARUMUGAM :—" திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லாவிலே சில வருஷங்களுக்கு முன்பு இரண்டு சர்க்கரை ஆலைகள் கட்டப்பட்டன. ஆனால் இப்பொழுது அவைகள் இரண்டும் ரைஸ் மில்களாக நடந்துகொண்டிருக்கின்றன. அதில் ஒன்றையாவது எடுத்துக்கொண்டு சர்க்கரை ஆலை நடத்த அரசாங்கத்தார் முன்வருவார்களா ? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered that Government do not propose to start or run any sugar factory. If the hon. Member can get the co-operation of people who are interested in the proposal, then we shall have the factory revived."

Grievances of the inhabitants of the Laccadive Islands.

* 750 *Q.*—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the nature of grievances of the inhabitants of the Laccadive Islands and the state-aid demanded by them in the representation received by the Government from them in November 1953; and

(*b*) the population of the islands?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) A copy[a] of the representation from the Jama-at-E. Jazeera of the Laccadive and Minicoy Islands is placed on the table of the House.

" (*b*) The population of the Laccadive and Minicoy Islands according to the 1951 census is 13,792."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Though these islanders are our own people, the Government have been treating them as though they do not belong to our State. They have been making requests after requests to Government and there have been reports as to how their condition could be improved. May I know what steps the Government have taken to improve the condition of these people? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" There are about seven requests by these islanders. Some of the recommendations of the special inspecting officer envisage a thorough change in the administrative set up and a review of the existing taxation measures. At present, these are under the examination of the departments concerned. The changes proposed in the report of the inspecting officer are of such a nature that they cannot be implemented without detailed examination and scrutiny."

Sri A. RATNAM :—" ஸார், இந்தத் திட்டுக்களிலுள்ள மக்கள் ஷெட்யூல் டிரைப்ஸ் என்று சொல்லிக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் பேசும் பாஷையானது மலையாளமா அல்லது கலந்த பாஷையா ? அவர்கள் போக்குவரத்துக்காக ஒரு படகு கேட்டுவந்தார்கள். அதை இந்த அரசாங்கம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறதா ? அல்லது இதுவரை அரசாங்கம் செய்த நன்மை என்ன என்பதை அமைச்சர் தெரிவிக்க முன் வருவாரா ? "

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[a] **Printed as Appendix IV on pages 779–781 infra.**

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" As I said, Sir, the whole thing is being examined."

SRI K. M. SEETHI SAHIB :—" May I know whether any active consideration is being given to the request made by the islanders for establishing steamer communication between the mainland and the islands and if so, the progress that has been made in that direction, and whether the Government have considered the recommendations in the Krishnaswami Report submitted to the Government a year ago? If so, what are the initial steps taken by the Government to implement them? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" As I said, there are seven requests from these islanders of which two have already been conceded, namely, the appointment of medical officers, and the deputation of an educational officer. Medical men were deputed to the islands on 2nd April 1954 and an officer from the office of the Director of Public Instruction had been sent to enquire and submit proposals for upgrading the elementary school there. He has given his report which is under examination."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" We had the rare privilege last year of receiving an open invitation on the floor of this House from the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue to accompany him to these islands on a visit so that we can see things for ourselves and get first-hand information about coditions existing there. May I know when the Cabinet proposes to send the Minister, with some willing Members from Malabar to study the situation obtaining there? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I can give this assurance at any rate. If the boat is sufficient enough to accommodate me, I would make a trip. I do not know if I can take others even if they are prepared to make the trip with me." (Laughter.)

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister the distance between the Laccadive Island and the main-land of India? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I think about 200 miles."

Report on the development of Laccadive and Amindivi Islands.

* 751 *Q.*—SRI M. S. MOGRAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) with reference to the answer to starred questions No. 75, dated 19th March 1953 and No. 8, dated 28th June 1952, whether the Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the Report of the Special Officer along with the remarks of the Collectors of Malabar and South Kanara; and

(*b*) whether the Government have taken any final decision on the report?